

National Elk Refuge News – August 24, 2006

Search and Rescue Demonstration



A group of 40 people attended a special program held at the Jackson Hole & Greater Yellowstone Visitor Center last week, led by National Elk Refuge maintenance worker, Amanda Soliday. The program, geared toward a young audience, taught participants strategies to use if they are lost in the woods.

Soliday volunteers with the Wyoming K-9 Search and Rescue program, a non-profit organization committed to providing competent K-9 search teams in emergency situations. The volunteer staff responds to callouts in Wyoming, Idaho, Montana and South Dakota. Last week's program focused on the importance of staying in one

place when lost, allowing searchers to more quickly locate the individual.

Soliday's program also described how dogs can be used as an effective search tool. Her demonstration was led with the help of her two golden retrievers, Haley and Roscoe, who go through extensive training and testing to participate in the program and obtain their certifications. Haley, age 8, is certified in avalanche, building searches, cadaver finds, evidence, water, wilderness, and tracking levels 1 & 2. Roscoe, age 1½, is certified in tracking level 1 and water/shore. Though the program is demanding and requires many hours of volunteered time, Soliday loves the rewards of the work. "It's my opportunity to give back to the community," she said.

For more information on the Wyoming K-9 Search and Rescue program, visit www.wyomingk9sar.org.

Clockwise from left: Haley celebrates a find by playing with a toy; visiting triplets enjoy the program on the terrace of the Visitor Center; Soliday with Haley and Roscoe; Roscoe and Haley looking for a quarter on the lawn.

